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'ACTON'S OWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER'

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

83rd Fall Fair entertains, in spite of rain

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

Although the final figures won't be available for another few days, all indications are that the 83rd edition of the Acton Fall Fair was a great success with near-record crowds, great weather on two of the three days and no major problems.

"I think the gate from Friday and Saturday will almost beat our best-ever attendance," a very happy Acton Agricultural Society President Jim Warrington said on Monday.

"Who said being president wasn't a glamorous job?" Warrington laughed as he washed out garbage cans behind the arena and supervised the clean-up operations. By Monday night there were very few signs that the Fair had even been there as the volunteer crews returned Prospect Park to its pre-fair state.

Crews had removed the display cases from the arena by noon on Monday and Town staff immediately began laying down the ice surface for the beginning of the hockey and figure skating season.

"We must be doing something right," Warrington said when asked about the popularity of the Fair in this high-

tech age.

"Other similar-sized fairs are facing declining attendance and most had upped their prices, while we continue to grow and have kept the ticket price at \$5 for adults.

"We're not just a carnival - sure we have all the rides - but we are much more," Warrington said.

Although it rained until early afternoon on Sunday, only one scheduled event - the stunt motorcycle show - had to be cancelled because of slippery mud.

Warrington, who tried to see all the events, said that the petting zoo was a hit with kids and parents and the surprise visit by new Toronto Maple Leaf Kirk Muller, who graciously spent several hours signing autographs, was a special treat.

Warrington said they weren't sure what would happen on Friday's Education Day since it was a professional development day and there weren't any school-organized trips, but 865 school-aged children came with their parents or caregivers and there were no problems. They only had to turn away a few older youths.

Although police did close the beer tent down about 45 minutes before the scheduled close on Saturday because it was getting noisy and crowded, there were no arrests and no problems.

Warrington said although he felt "really good" about the whole Fair, the best part for him was the enthusiasm of the 150 volunteers who worked long and hard to make the fair a success.



MISS ACTON CROWNED!

Miss Acton for 1996-97, Sonya Tonkovich, seated, revels in the glory of the occasion last Friday night following the pageant. To her immediate left and right are, respectively, first runner-up Angel Ivany and second runner-up Mandie Schmuki. Behind Miss Acton are Jamie Davies, Acton Ambassador for 1995-96 and Shana Peddle, Ambassador for 1994-1995. Other contestants included Nadine Barrett, Jodi Davies, Janette Jensen, Andrea Lunau, Jessica Mahon, Laura Sootiere and Terri-Anne Walsma. (Eve Martin photo)

Numbers down at Terry Fox Run

Even the steady rain did not stop 108 Acton area residents from honouring the memory of Terry Fox by participating in Sunday's 16th annual Terry Fox Run at the Acton High track.

Those who completed the 10 kilometres - 25 times around the track - included walkers, joggers, runner, bicyclers, babies in strollers, wheel-chair bound Bill Black - the eldest participant - a unicyclist and a dog-drawn covered wagon. They all had one thing in common - the desire to keep Fox's Marathon of Hope alive.

"It was an excellent day,"

organizer Jon Hurst said on Monday. "Of course the weather was the pits - one of the worst runs we've had as far as the weather goes - but at least it wasn't cold and that helped a bit."

The total dollar amount pledged to the participants is \$21,000, down from \$25,000 last year, but still a significant amount. That works out to over \$3 per capita with an average contribution of \$194 per participant.

Hurst said those people who didn't participate because of the rain but have collected pledges can still take part.

"Anyone who wants to honour their pledges or complete the run can either do it on their own this week or they can call me. If I get enough people, we could always go back to the track, maybe on the weekend, and I could authorize their pledge sheets for them," Hurst said.

Hurst said the best part of the day for him was to see all of the people who *did* brave the rain to participate.

"I had one person come to me and say that when he got up and saw the rain, he very seriously considered not coming, but when he realized that all the volunteers would be there, he knew he had to come," Hurst said, adding that he reminded the participants at the beginning of the day that Terry Fox ran into much worse weather as he ran across the country.

Acton has participated in every Terry Fox Run since its inception in 1982 and over the years has raised \$293,626 for cancer research. During the last eight years the Acton run has been one of the top 25 run sites in Ontario.

Anyone who would like to make arrangements to do their run and honour their pledge sheets should call Hurst at 853-2015.

See Page 9 for more images from the Fair!

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